



Graduate Student Internships



Introduction

Semester-long graduate student internships are available with one of the nation's premier land management agencies – the National Park Service (NPS). The mission of the NPS is to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of present and future generations.

Understanding the relationship between people and parks is critical for protecting valuable resources while providing for public enjoyment.

The National Park Service Social Science Program plays a critical role in achieving the NPS mission by conducting and promoting state-of-the-art research relevant to NPS management. The NPS Social Science Program focuses on economics, geography, psychology, political science, sociology, and interdisciplinary studies.

As a graduate student intern with the NPS Social Science Program, you will work with the Visiting Chief Social Scientist and other program staff on research and technical assistance projects that deliver usable knowledge to NPS managers and the public. You can learn first-hand how the NPS operates and carries out its mission, gain practical experience, and develop valuable job skills.

The internship positions are located in Washington, DC. Graduate student interns receive a stipend of approximately \$1,250 per month.

NPS Social Science Program Activities

The NPS Social Science Program is engaged in many activities, including:

- Overseeing projects related to high priority national needs for social science research (such as trends in tourism and recreation, impacts of parks on surrounding economies, the social aspects of ecosystem management, issues related to gateway communities and so forth).
- Conducting social science needs assessments for national parks and NPS programs.
- Producing the *Social Science Research Review Series*, individual reviews of social science literature and theory on issues critical to NPS managers.
- Developing and maintaining the NPS Social Science Program website.
- Maintaining the *Social Science Studies Collection* within the NPS library and digital document system.



- Supporting the NPS Sabbatical in the Parks Program.
- Conducting visitor surveys and other studies in units of the National Park System.

Previous Graduate Student Intern Projects

As part of their internship, graduate students conduct a major project of benefit to the NPS Social Science Program or other NPS managers. Examples of past graduate student intern projects include:

- Helping to develop formal policies for the NPS Social Science Program.
- Creating an action plan for the Sabbatical in the Parks Program.
- Preparing the document *Gateway Opportunities: A Guide to Federal Programs for Rural Gateway Communities*.
- Developing atlases of socioeconomic trends for individual national park units and their regions.
- Preparing the booklet *A Look Ahead: Key Environmental Forecasts Relevant to the National Park Service*.
- Preparing *An Administrative Atlas for National Park Service Ecosystem Management*.
- Preparing an archive plan for NPS Social Science Program and other research reports.
- Creating the *Social Science Studies Collection* in cooperation with the NPS Library Program.

Internship Requirements

Applicants should be:

- a U.S. citizen currently enrolled in a relevant graduate program or planning to attend graduate school,
- available for a semester-long internship for 40 hours per week,
- willing to work in Washington, DC,
- able to work creatively and independently, and
- able to interact professionally and confidently with social scientists and NPS managers in Washington, DC and around the country.

Application Information

- To apply, send a resume and cover letter describing your interests and availability to the contact below.
- Include the names and contact information for three references who can speak to your academic and work experience.

Application Deadlines

- For winter/spring internships: 15 November 2005
- For summer internships: 15 April 2006
- For fall internships: 15 June 2006

Contact:

Megan McBride
National Park Service
Social Science Program
1201 "Eye" Street, NW (2300)
Washington, DC 20240
Phone: 202.513.7190
Fax: 202.371.2131
Email:
Megan_McBride@contractor.nps.gov